

Appl. No.: 10/712,131
Filed: November 13, 2003
Amendment dated December 16, 2005
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REMARKS

Claims 1-11 have been canceled. New claims 12-31 have been added. Applicants respectfully point out that new claim 12 is believed to be generic to all species encompassed by the present invention. Support for the new claims can be found throughout the specification and drawings, as well as in the original claims. Applicants submit that no new matter is introduced by this Amendment. Claims 12-31 are pending in the application.

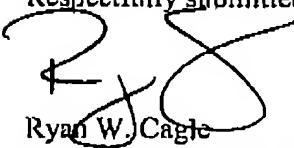
In response to the Office Action dated November 3, 2005, in which the Examiner required restriction between the species of Group I (Figure 1-3 and 9); Group II (Figures 4-8); and Group III (Figures 10-11), Applicant hereby elects, with traverse, to prosecute claims associated with the species of Group I (Figures 1-3 and 9), which species encompasses claims 12-19 and 22-31. Applicant expressly reserves the right to file divisional applications or take such other appropriate measures deemed necessary to protect the inventions in the remaining claims.

Applicant traverses the restriction on the ground that a combined search and examination of all species can be conducted without serious burden to the Examiner. As set forth in MPEP §803, under such circumstances, restriction is improper. If the election of species requirement is maintained, Applicant notes that consideration of additional species should take place upon the allowance of a generic claim as provided by 37 CFR §1.141. Should the Examiner have further questions or comments with respect to examination of this case, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned so that further examination of this application can be expedited.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR §1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

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CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the US Patent and Trademark Office at Fax No. (703) 872-9306 on the date shown below.


Rebecca Kerney

12/16/05

Date